

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed prior to receiving an Office Action on the merits in this case. By the present Amendment, claims 1, 13 and 14 have been amended. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. This Amendment has been made for clarification purposes, and no new matter has been added.

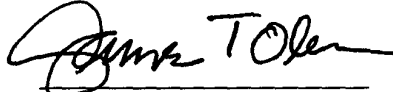
CONCLUSION

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response not accounted for please charge the fees to our **Deposit Account No. 06-1448**. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

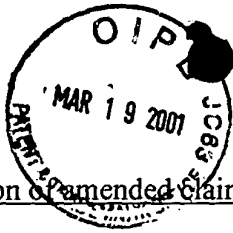
Respectfully submitted,
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Marked-up version of amended Claims 1, 13 and 14 showing changes made

1. (Once Amended) A method for preventing or treating a disease or condition caused, or contributed to, by [TNF- α -induced] lipolysis or elevated FFA levels in a[n] subject, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of an inhibitor of a MAPK pathway to reduce lipolysis, to thereby prevent or treat the disease or condition in the subject.
13. (Once Amended) A method for treating a subject having insulin resistance, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of an inhibitor of ERK1/2 and/or JNK pathway in an amount sufficient to decrease [TNF- α -induced] lipolysis.
14. (Once Amended) A method for treating a subject having NIDDM, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of an inhibitor of the ERK1/2 and/or JNK pathway in an amount sufficient to decrease [TNF- α -induced] lipolysis.